

WHAT IS ENVSEC?

www.envsec.org

The Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative was launched in 2003 at the Fifth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Kiev, Ukraine to strengthen national capacities, regional co-ordination mechanisms and international co-operation for environment and security risk reduction. Since then, the Initiative has developed into a unique multi-agency programme operating in four regions: Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) have joined forces to provide holistic solutions to environmental challenges.

ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY: A PLATFORM FOR CO-OPERATION

The increasing pressure on natural resources, the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and unsustainable development pose multifaceted security challenges within and across borders. The ENVSEC Initiative helps to:

- Transform these risks into opportunities for co-operation;
- Improve mutual understanding;
- Effectively manage transboundary environmental challenges on a co-operative basis.

"In the Balkans, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia, the UN and the OSCE are teaming up through ENVSEC. These environmental challenges are extensive and varied, but solutions share a common denominator, that is cooperation"

Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General



* under UNSC 1244 ** The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The designations employed on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the organizations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authority or delineation of its frontiers and boundaries.



ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY **PRIORITY AREAS**

ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY: **SHARED BENEFITS AND SOLUTIONS**

“The Environment and Security Initiative is a concrete example of joining efforts by many partner organizations to forge effective responses to traditional and emerging challenges. This lasting partnership will continue to enable joint and co-ordinated action in support of sustainable development and peace”

Lamberto Zannier,
OSCE Secretary General



Photo: Victor Mello

Environmental degradation and competition over natural resources can lead to political disputes and threaten stability. Environmental co-operation, on the other hand, can act as a bridge for improved mutual understanding, and lay the foundation for **conflict prevention** and **confidence building**.

The ENVSEC Initiative was founded to address the linkage between the environment and security through both technical and political actions, ranging from in-depth vulnerability assessments to capacity building and institutional strengthening. ENVSEC encourages **co-ordination** and **co-operation** between countries and supports pilot interventions at local, country and transboundary level. It also enhances civil society engagement and promotes information sharing and community participation through Aarhus Centres.

ENVSEC IN ACTION

NATURAL RESOURCES AND SECURITY

The ENVSEC Initiative promotes transboundary co-operation for environmentally sound management of shared natural resources, including in 13 transboundary water basins in the ENVSEC regions. It supports countries in strengthening their natural resource management policies and legislation, and it encourages ratification and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.



CO-OPERATION ON THE DNIESTER:

Since 2004, Moldova and Ukraine have co-operated through a number of projects known as **"the Dniester process"** with the support of the ENVSEC Initiative. In 2012, this process culminated in the signing of the Dniester Treaty which provides a framework for the two countries to work together on preventing and controlling water pollution, regulating water flows, conserving biodiversity, monitoring information exchange, and promoting public participation and co-operation in emergency situations.

PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL LOGGING IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE:

Illegal logging and illegal timber trade are growing problems for many countries in the region as they can lead to deforestation, forest degradation, and desertification. The ENVSEC Initiative assessed the state of the forestry sector in South Eastern Europe, including the legal, institutional and policy frameworks. It also formulated recommendations and a regional road map for addressing illegal logging and illegal timber trade, followed by several **training and capacity building programmes**.



ENVSEC IN ACTION CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY

Climate change is a “threat multiplier”, exacerbating existing risks to security. The ENVSEC Initiative takes practical steps towards promoting co-operation on climate change issues within and across borders.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY IN EASTERN EUROPE, THE SOUTH CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA:

Climate change has a direct impact on security through its effect on critical infrastructure and because of extreme weather events that increase stresses on natural resources. Since 2013, the ENVSEC Initiative, with the support of the European Union Instrument for Stability and the Austrian Development Agency, has been implementing a multi-stakeholder project to identify the security implications of climate change in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The project enhances understanding and **awareness** of climate change as a security challenge and the consequent need for regional and transboundary co-operation in **adaptation**. It conducts participatory climate change and security assessments in each of the regions, and supports one transboundary adaptation strategy.

ENVSEC IN ACTION

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND SECURITY

The ENVSEC Initiative contributes to strengthening disaster risk reduction as well as the prevention of and preparedness for environmental emergencies, in collaboration with national and local stakeholders.



Photo: Johann Goldammer

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS:

Since 2009, the ENVSEC Initiative in partnership with the Global Fire Monitoring Center has been supporting the reduction of wildfire risks in the South Caucasus region. ENVSEC has focused on strengthening national capacities to effectively prevent wildfires, developing **early-warning tools** for decision-makers, supporting the development of national fire management policies, and enhancing the **preparedness** of state authorities and other national and local stakeholders to respond to wildfires.

DAM SAFETY IN CENTRAL ASIA:

There are more than 100 major dams and other water control facilities in Central Asia, mostly on transboundary rivers. The dams are ageing and sometimes inadequately maintained, which poses a serious threat to the downstream densely populated countries. The ENVSEC Initiative has launched a process to improve and harmonise national legislation, including support to a joint **safety assessment** and a pilot early warning mechanism for the Kirov dam in Kyrgyzstan. Furthermore, a model regulation on hydro-technical structures has been developed and serves as a good basis for monitoring and evaluating dam safety.



ENVSEC IN ACTION

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND SECURITY

“The ENVSEC Initiative is an excellent example of a well-functioning multi-agency co-operation, a joint effort that can provide an effective integrated response to environment and security challenges”

Antti Rytövuori, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Finland in Geneva (2011)

REDUCTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY RISKS FROM MINING IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE:

Over a period of 10 years, the ENVSEC Initiative has generated information on the current state of around 150 mining sites in South Eastern Europe, and possible remediation solutions; organized several capacity-building activities; supported countries in the ratification and implementation of relevant multilateral agreements; and improved the safety of two non-active mining sites through **pilot remediation work**.

PREVENTING ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE:

The ENVSEC Initiative supports efforts to prevent the illegal trafficking of hazardous waste by strengthening the capacity of relevant national authorities (customs, environmental inspectors etc.) to **detect and prevent environmental crimes** at the border where different sorts of hazardous waste are involved.

URANIUM LEGACY SITES IN CENTRAL ASIA:

The ENVSEC Initiative, with the support of the European Union, stimulates regional dialogue, increases awareness of policy-makers as well as citizens on risks associated with uranium waste and possible measures, and promotes **community engagement in remediation** of uranium legacy sites.

ENVSEC IN ACTION INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY



The ENVSEC Initiative enhances public awareness on environment and security linkages, facilitates access to environmental information and public participation, promotes access to justice in environmental matters and strengthens the capacities of civil society to respond to these challenges.



Since 2003, the ENVSEC Initiative has been instrumental in the establishment and functioning of a **network of 60 Aarhus Centres** in Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. Named after the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, the Aarhus Centres disseminate environmental information, raise public awareness, organize public hearings, monitor environmental hotspots, provide legal advice and engage young people and women in environmental matters.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY (ENVSEC) INITIATIVE SINCE 2003

5

ENVSEC
PARTNER
ORGANI-
ZATIONS

4

REGIONS

STRENGTHENED
COLLABORATION
ON THE MANA-
GEMENT OF

150

PROJECTS

COLLABORATION
WITH

20

INTERNATIONAL
PARTNERS

LOCAL
PARTNERS

100

13

TRANSBOUNDARY
WATER BASINS

60

AARHUS
CENTRES



REGIONAL APPROACH TO
TRANSBOUNDARY CHALLENGES



EXTENSIVE NETWORK
OF STAKEHOLDERS



LONG-TERM APPROACH TO
ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY



MULTI-DONOR
TRUST FUND



PARTICIPATORY
APPROACH



BUILDING TRUST AT
DIFFERENT LEVELS

DECISION MAKING COORDINATION - IMPLEMENTATION

DECISION
MAKING

ENVSEC
MANAGEMENT
BOARD

ENVSEC DONORS
(REGULAR PARTNERS
MEETINGS)

COORDINATION

ENVSEC SECRETARIAT
(REGIONAL DESK OFFICERS)
(COORDINATION UNIT)

ENVSEC NATIONAL
FOCAL POINTS

ENVSEC NATIONAL
STAKEHOLDERS
(REGULAR NATIONAL AND
REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS)

IMPLEMENTATION

OSCE

UNDP

UNEP

UNECE

REC

METHODOLOGY

Key to the success of the Initiative is its working methods – a four-stage approach – and processes that build on participation, ownership and co-operation.

STAGE 1

REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS

STAGE 2

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

STAGE 3

REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMMES

STAGE 4

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

TRANSBOUNDARY WATER CO-OPERATION IN RIVER BASINS

(DNIESTER, PRIPYAT, NEMAN, KURA-ARAS, SAVA, DRIN, LEPENEC, TIMOK, DANUBE, CHU-TALAS, AMU DARYA)

DAM SAFETY

FLOOD PREVENTION

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL LOGGING



CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY



REDUCTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY RISKS FROM MINING
REMEDIATION OF URANIUM LEGACY SITES



REMOVAL OF TOXIC ROCKET FUEL - MÉLANGE
SAFE DESTRUCTION OF OBSOLETE PESTICIDES



PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

AARHUS CENTRES (ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING, ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN
ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS)



CASE NGO SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME
ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIATION



ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM



ENVSEC HIGHLIGHTS





ENVSEC INITIATIVE IN THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY

The green economy, as an approach to redirect consumption habits, investment and trade in support of inclusive prosperity, is a promising path towards achieving sustainable development. It is broadly characterized by three integrated dimensions: reduced environmental risks and ecological scarcities; enhanced economic progress; and improved human well-being and social equity.

The ENVSEC Initiative contributes in many ways to the transition to a green and inclusive economy in Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Its direct contribution is its work for reduction of environmental risks, strengthening ecosystems resilience, and protecting the natural environment. The Initiative also promotes Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) that provide regulatory and institutional frameworks for addressing public and governmental concerns in relation to new projects and their impacts on the environment. Its indirect contribution is through improving **resource efficiency**, particularly water, and through empowering civil society and communities.

Overall, the transition to a green economy will require enhanced co-operation among and within countries and the ENVSEC Initiative with its wide network of stakeholders will do its share.



ENVSEC AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets are built around five pillars: peace, people, planet, prosperity, and partnerships.

The link between security and development is a key underlying principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which states “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”.

The ENVSEC Initiative through its primary focus on the interlinkages between peace and environment and the implications for people, planet and prosperity, and through its longstanding multi-stakeholder partnership approach will contribute to the overall implementation of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** in Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

Given its accumulated experience for over a decade and its network of partners at local, national and regional levels, the ENVSEC Initiative will particularly be instrumental in realizing the following SDGs below:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

15 LIFE ON LAND



Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development